

SN. 09/997,993

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. MATS:034

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 now remain pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration. Claims 2-16, 18, and 19 have been allowed (minor editorial revisions have been made to claims 4, 9, 13, 15, and 16 to improve their form without altering their scope).

Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to improve their form and clarity. Specifically, claim 1 now recites that the pan unit has a pan shaft disposed on top and bottom thereof and that the pan shaft rotatably supports the pan unit to the casing (as is similarly featured in claim 17). Claim 17 now recites that the tilt wheel is fixed to the tilt unit and the tilt driving means is fixed to the pan unit.

No new matter has been introduced.

Art Rejection

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kim (USP 6,503,000), and claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Elberbaum (USP 5,028,997) in view of Kahn (USP 5,802,412). Applicants submit that the present amendment renders these rejections moot because they would not have taught the claimed pan/tilt structure called for in these claims.

First, claim 1 calls for the pan unit that is rotatably mounted to the casing using a pan shaft provided at the top and bottom therewith. In contrast, in Kim, the housing 30 that holds the tilt driving mechanism 60 is rotatable about only a bottom thereof. In other words, Kim's pan unit is not rotatably supported to the casing at opposite sides (top and bottom) as called for in claim 1. Moreover, as Kim's tilt unit sits on top of the pan unit, there would not have been any motivation for Kim to mount the pan unit at the top and bottom thereof as called for in claim 1. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Kim.

Second, claim 17 calls for the tilt wheel to be fixed to the tilt unit and the tilt driving means to be fixed to the pan unit. In contrast, Elberbaum's tilt wheel 54 is fixedly mounted to its pan unit 84 to enable its tilt driving motor 56, which is fixedly mounted to the camera 46, to rotate together with the camera about its first axis 96. See Figs. 5 and 6, and column 5, lines 36-

SN. 09/997,993

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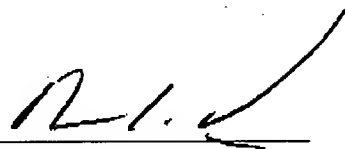
43. Kahn does not alleviate Elberbaum's shortcomings. Accordingly, claim 17 also patentably distinguishes over the applied references.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is solicited. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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